

From: cmwhalen2001@yahoo.com
Sent: Tuesday, May 23, 2006 12:57 AM
To: NOP Livestock
Subject: I Protest USDA Weakening Certified Organic Standards

Attachments: ATTACHMENT.TXT

Mr. Mark Bradley
Associate Deputy Director
USDA
Transportation & Marketing Program
National Organic Program, #4009, So. Ag Stop 0208
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Bradley:

Since 1969 I have been a careful, well informed consumer of organically grown, whole foods. As a conscious consumer who cares about public health safety and my own personal safety, I am dismayed the USDA is considering drastically altering legal standards for product labelling for certified organically grown foods.

Livestock do not belong on corporate agribusiness tightly packed pens - "feedlots". Although, technically these cows are "outdoors" it is a horrendous practice. In no way are "feedlot" cows in pen even remotely "free-ranging". They stand knee deep in their own feces, packed in like sardines. Due to high stress, disease is rampant. These cows are fed antibiotics to avoid dying. Freaked out from stress, they are fed animal tranquilizers/anti-depressants - ala' Prozac for cows. This is supposed to prevent stampedes, cannibalism and failure to reproduce. In reality, it creates diseased animals which are not fit for consumption.

Cows belong in wide open pasture, eating grass and wild plants. Routine practice for conventional giant corporate dairy feedlots is penning thousands of cows in "feedlots" continuously importing weak calves from conventional farms. It is surrealistic these cows are labelled "certified organic."

Wretched calves are weaned on cow blood instead of mothers cows milk. These cows are fed slaughterhouse waste which creates Mad Cow disease. Feeding cattle pulverized, freeze dried slaughterhouse waste turns cows into cannibals. Hence, Mad Cow disease. The European Union and Japan BANNED American beef imports due to horrendous corporate agribusiness cattle grazing practices. This severely hurt American cattle ranchers and damaged their profit margins. Foreign nations refuse to buy American beef/dairy because this food is a public safety hazard.

Cows in feedlot pens are fed genetically engineered grains and injected with antibiotics. Yet, this

bogus milk and meat is labelled "Certified Organic" with USDA seal of approval!

Passing for alleged "certifiers" - dubious organizations such as QAI and Colorado State Dept. of Agriculture fraudulently endorse corporate agribusiness "factory farm" products as "certified organic". There is already an egregious amount of bogus "certified organic" foods already on the market.

Now the USDA wants to dilute and adulterate certified organic labelling standards even more! This is unacceptable.

Although my diet is 100% organic, whole foods since 1969, I vehemently boycott Horizon brand products. Horizon Dairy is a subsidiary of Dean Foods, a corporate agribusiness supplier to Wal-Mart and many unsuspecting natural food stores.

I also assiduously boycott Aurora Organic, a supplier of private brand name organic milk to Costco, Safeway, Giant and Wild Oats. Aurora Organic unethically purchases the majority of their milk from corporate agribusiness feedlot dairies where cows have no access to pasture. Aurora Organic and Horizon Dairy control up to 65% of the hegemony of a corporate cartel which intends to completely control the certified organic dairy market - forcing authentic companies such as Organic Valley out of business.

As an informed consumer I buy ONLY Organic Valley brand. It is a national co-operative of independent, family farmers who ethically practice Permaculture and Sustainable Agriculture animal husbandry/farming.

I protest the abuse of authentic certified organic foods industry labelling standards. As a consumer, I pay high premium prices for clean, authentic food free of GMO, antibiotics, growth hormones and petrochemical inputs. I am very angry the USDA would even CONSIDER watering down the existing standards. These existing standards are not strict enough and considerable abuse in labelling exists.

Why isn't the USDA fulfilling its responsibility to American consumers? I am a patriotic American, a genuine "Yankee Doodle Dandy" but my faith in government has been destroyed. The USDA has lost its credibility with me. I remember for many decades our national community of American consumers, organic farmers/ranchers, whole foods manufacturers/retailers had to fight like tigers, uphill just to get decent labelling with state/federal standards for truth in labelling.

Now the USDA is considering "backsliding" and tossing out the meager labelling laws we fought for decades to create!

Please liase with Organic Valley Co-Operative company to learn what authentic certified organic standards are. Permaculture/Sustainable Agriculture farming/animal husbandry is the way to gain consumer confidence.

I would appreciate the courtesy of a written reply. It is of grave concern to me how you personally act

on this critical issue.

Thank you for your serious consideration of my concerns.

God Bless America - Keep Our Food Clean,

Colleen Marie-Blanchefleur Whalen

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